



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
United States Patent and Trademark Office  
Address: COMMISSIONER OF PATENTS AND TRADEMARKS  
Washington, D.C. 20231  
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/685,165	10/05/2000	Michael Carl Heumann	1776P	3401

7590

08/15/2002

Sawyer Law Group LLP  
P O Box 51418  
Palo Alto, CA 94303

EXAMINER

KINDRED, ALFORD W

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2172

DATE MAILED: 08/15/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

**Office Action Summary**

Application No.

09/685,165

Applicant(s)

HEUMANN ET AL.

Examiner

Alford W. Kindred

Art Unit

2172

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 05 October 2000.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-28 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-28 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120**

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- \* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

**Attachment(s)**

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 2
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s) \_\_\_\_\_
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

### DETAILED ACTION

1. This action is responsive to communications: application, filed on 10/05/00.

#### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent, or on an international application by another who has fulfilled the requirements of paragraphs (1), (2), and (4) of section 371(c) of this title before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent.

3. Claims 1-28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Presnell et al., US# 6,182,067 B1.

As per claims 1, 9, 11, and 26-28, Presnell et al. teaches “receiving information input a database; organizing items . . . database” (see col. 4, lines 10-44) “collecting ratings and comments associated . . .” (see col. 16, lines 46-61) “allowing users to access and sort items of information according to selected rating criteria . . .” (see col. 8, lines 31-47).

As per claim 2, Presnell et al. teaches “adding content, multi-criteria ratings and comment . . .” (see col. 9, lines 55-67 and col. 10, lines 1-17).

As per claim 3, Presnell et al. teaches “displaying rating scores for each item . . .” (see col. 16, lines 43-67).

As per claim 4, Presnell et al. teaches “allowing users to locate and access selected content in a graphic display format” (see col. 12, lines 35-65).

As per claim 5, Presnell et al. teaches “constraining the input according to subject and topic classification choices made by user prior to contributing content” (see col. 18, lines 4-39).

As per claims 6-7, Presnell et al. teaches “graphic symbols for representing the aggregate rating scores for each criteria . . .” (see col. 16, lines 40-65).

As per claims 8 and 27, Presnell et al. teaches “provides a side-side . . .allowing individuals to make informed decisions . . .” (see col. 3, lines 20-40).

As per claim 10, Presnell et al. teaches “the graphic display format provides a display of other comments providing additional information . . .” (see col. 3, lines 14-56).

As per claim 12, Presnell et al. teaches “displaying the level of support for an item of information . . .” (see abstract).

As per claims 13-14, Presnell et al. teaches “selected rating criteria . . . weighted combinations . . .” (see col. 4, lines 16-67).

As per claims 15-17, Presnell et al. teaches “selected personal preferences indicating the importance of each rating criteria . . .” (see col. 16, lines 46-67).

As per claim 18, Presnell et al. teaches “allowing users to search on a given subject . . .” (see col. 15, lines 20-55).

As per claims 19-21, Presnell et al. teaches “allowing users to add new subject . . . knowledge base” (see col. 18, lines 2-17).

As per claim 22, Presnell et al. teaches “allowing content . . . comment feedback” (see col. 3, lines 39-63).

As per claim 23, Presnell et al. teaches "a first area that shows the subject . . ."  
(see col. 11, lines 34-67) "a third area that shows ratings related to the subjects . . ."  
(see col. 16, lines 40-67).

As per claim 24, this claim is rejection on grounds corresponding to the  
arguments given above for rejected claim 6 and are similarly rejected.

As per claim 25, Presnell et al. teaches "provides a navigation area indicating  
where the posting is located within the data base structure" (see fig. 11A—sheet 14 of  
31).

***Conclusion***

4. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

--US# 5,991,595; 5,734,890.

5. Any response to this action should be mailed to:

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

Washington, D.C. 20231

or faxed to:

(703)- (703)-746-7239 (**formal** communications intended for entry),

Hand-delivered responses should be brought to:

Sixth Floor Receptionist, Crystal Park II, 2121 Crystal Drive, Arlington, VA.

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to

Alford Kindred, whose telephone number is (703)-305-3802 and can normally be reached Monday-Friday from 8:30 AM to 5 PM.

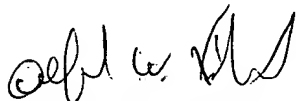
If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kim Vu, can be reached at (703)-305-4393.

Application/Control Number: 09/685,165

Page 6

Art Unit: 2172

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the group receptionist whose telephone number is (703)-305-3900.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Alford W. Kindred', is written above the printed name.

Alford W. Kindred

Patent Examiner

Tech Ctr. 2100